

Introduced by Senator AlarconFebruary 17, 2004

An act to amend Sections 48431.6 and 48431.7 of the Education Code, relating to pupils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1299, as introduced, Alarcon. Pupils: academic review and counseling.

Existing law requires the governing board of each school district maintaining high schools and accepting certain funds to establish and maintain a program that ensures that each pupil upon reaching the age of 16 or prior to the end of the 10th grade, whichever is first, has received a systematic review of his or her academic progress and counseling regarding the educational options available to the pupil during the final 2 years of high school. Existing law requires the program to be adopted at a public meeting of the governing board and to include specified provisions. Existing law requires, out of funds appropriated for the program, the Superintendent of Public Instruction to apportion \$20 per prior year's enrollment in grade 10 to the district.

This bill would authorize a unified school district or a high school district to implement the program in grade 8 or 9, instead, as specified. The bill would make other technical, nonsubstantive, and conforming changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.



The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) As early as the end of grade 8, pupils and parents would benefit from an understanding of the coursework and academic progress needed for satisfactory completion of high school, and the effect that the coursework and academic progress has on postsecondary education and employment.

(b) Pupils begin developing their career paths as early as grade 8 by enrolling in relevant coursework in high school.

(c) Given increasing academic standards and a time commitment to preparation programs, career choices are affected by academic progress in grade 9.

(d) Data illustrates that by having a career goal, a pupil increases his or her chances of completing high school.

(e) Increasing the number of pupils who complete high school benefits the entire economy of the state.

(f) While the state dropout rate is 13 percent, some unified school districts report a near 50 percent dropout rate.

(g) The majority of pupils are dropping out of high school by grade 10.

(h) A high dropout rate is counterproductive to the pursuit of a healthy economy and a competitive and highly skilled workforce.

SEC. 2. Section 48431.6 of the Education Code is amended to read:

48431.6. (a) The governing board of each district maintaining high schools and accepting funds made available for purposes of this section shall establish and maintain a program which ensures that each pupil, upon reaching the age of 16 or prior to the end of ~~the 10th~~ grade 10, whichever occurs first, has received a systematic review of his or her academic progress and counseling regarding ~~the~~ *his or her* educational options ~~available to the pupil~~ during the final two years of high school. The program shall be adopted at a public meeting of the governing board and shall include, ~~but not be limited to,~~ all of the following:

(1) Provision for individualized review of the pupil's academic and deportment records.

(2) Provision for a meeting with the pupil and, where feasible, with the pupil's parent or guardian, to explain the pupil's record, ~~the his or her~~ educational options ~~available to the pupil~~, the coursework and academic progress needed for satisfactory completion of high school, and the effect of that coursework and academic progress upon the pupil's options for postsecondary education and employment. Educational options shall include, ~~but not be limited to~~, regional occupational centers and programs, continuation schools, academic programs, and any other alternatives available to pupils of the district.

(3) Provision for services of teachers, counselors, and others designated by the governing board to provide the individualized review and assistance to pupils pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2). To the maximum extent feasible, regional occupational center or program counselors shall actively participate in, and the local business community shall be involved in, career guidance activities.

(b) The program shall give first priority to identifying pupils who are not earning credits at a rate ~~which~~ *that* will enable them to graduate with the rest of their class, and to providing these pupils with counseling services funded pursuant to Section 48431.7.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a unified school district, or a high school district, may conduct the program so that a pupil receives the systematic review of his or her academic progress and counseling regarding his or her educational options prior to the end of grade 8 or 9. The early implementation of the program may not necessitate additional funding.

SEC. 3. Section 48431.7 of the Education Code is amended to read:

48431.7. (a) Funds appropriated for purposes of Section 48431.6 shall supplement, and shall not supplant, existing funding for counseling services. Out of funds appropriated for those purposes, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall apportion twenty dollars (\$20) per prior year's enrollment in grade 10 to each school district ~~which~~ *that* has adopted a program pursuant to Section 48431.6.

(b) If a school district implements a program in a grade other than grade 10 pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 48431.6, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall apportion twenty

- 1 *dollars (\$20) per prior year's enrollment in the grade in which the*
- 2 *program is implemented.*

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